

2. 22 1/2

2. 22 1/2

1881

W. P. 1881

1881

No 95 J.

fully good - some copies in the library

63 Geo I. Lincoln

lynanche ^{of} Trachealis
on
croup

By Richard Town

Papd March 24th
1824

W. S. H.

Iran

Paid March 1824
W. S. H.

Debit

On
Cynanche Strachan
or
Group.

By Richard Brown.

Copy of Manuscript
No. 2. W.
L. 2. 1. 1.

Copy of Manuscript
No. 2. W.
L. 2. 1. 1.

Cynanche Strachealis
Group.

This disease has received a great variety of names, as *Cynanche Stridula*, *Angina Epidemica* &c. *Cynanche Strachealis* is the one which has been generally adopted. Group is the common appellation of the disease in Scotland while in different parts of the United States it is known by the name of diphtheria. The above mentioned names have all been applied to an inflammatory affection of the mucous membrane of the Glottis, Larynx, & Trachea; which is excited so high as to throw out coagulable lymph instead of inducing only an increased and altered secretion of the part according to the accustomed action of these membranes.

By some practitioners it has been divided into two species, namely, the Idiopathic, & the Symptomatic; and this distinction would appear to be not without foundation. Dr. Gallen observes that it may arise

first in these parts alone or it may come to affect them from the *Cyanobolus Rousillaris* or *Maligna* spreading into them - this has also been remarked by Dr. C. Byrne, Dr. Rush, and Dr. Underwood; but it is probable that it is generally Idiopathic. By another set of practitioners it is divided into Spasmodic & Inflammatory. That it is sometimes purely spasmodic is highly probable from the suddenness of its attack; as inflammation requires time for its completion - but the spasm continuing for any length of time inflammation will inevitably ensue. The spasmodic action or at least a tendency to it continues throughout the whole course of the disease - whether it be of an inflammatory or spasmodic nature nearly the same mode of treatment will be demanded.

This disease does not appear to be contagious; but it sometimes prevails as an Epidemic. it is almost exclusively confined to the early periods of life and attacks such infants as are robust and vigorous, very rarely occurring after the age of puberty.

adults are not often affected with it; though there are not wanting such instances. a child that has had the disease once is more liable to take it again than one that has not had it. The most frequent cause of the disease appears to be cold conjoined with moisture; and it makes its attacks most frequently in the winter & spring; and at any time when there are sudden changes of weather, it is said to be more frequently seen on the sea coast than in inland countries where however it is ^{not} uncommon.

The Croup comes on with shillings and some of the other symptoms of fever, followed by increased heat, restlessness, starting &c. in some cases the patient has the symptoms of a common catarrh or cold & for one or two days is affected with a hoarse cough unattended with expectoration. but most generally it makes its attack suddenly & in the night time without any previous indisposition being manifest. the child is aroused out of its

slumber with a dry hoarse cough, which has been compared to the crowing of a cock, or the noise which is produced by blowing into a broken tube. the breathing is laborious and attended with a wheezing noise, & the voice is peculiarly shrill. the face is flushed, the pulse quick & chords; the cough is generally dry from the commencement, though occasionally it is moist & a frothy matter is brought up. the child appears to be in constant uneasiness, & the eyes are red and watery, & the whole face appears swelled. it sometimes happens that there is vomiting in the early stage of the disease and a frothy matter is brought up.

The duration of the complaint is various according to the violence of the symptoms & the constitution of the child. it has proved fatal in the short space of six hours from the attack; at other times not for two or three weeks: but most frequently in three or four days. much may depend upon the degree of inflammatory action; the strength & constitution of the child & the violence of the spasm. in some cases there is more of spasm than of inflammation, &

than the fever is less violent, the cough is not so frequent, the difficulty of breathing is less permanent but it appears that the attacks of suffocation are not rarer.

When the disease is mild, or when the fever is not very high respiration not extremely laborious, the cough not very urgent, when a free expectoration takes place, & the constitution of the child is good a recovery may be expected.

But when the cough is violent, the pulse irregular, the breathing much oppressed & the system little susceptible of being acted upon by remedies as Emetics & Laxatives is to be apprehended.

The appearances observed on dissection are various, sometimes the Lungs appear to have been affected with considerable inflammatory action. Sometimes they are hard and compact, their vessels gorged with blood of a dark colour, & the air cells filled with serum, but more commonly with mucus. the membrane said so often to have been found in the Lungs has rarely been met with in this country.

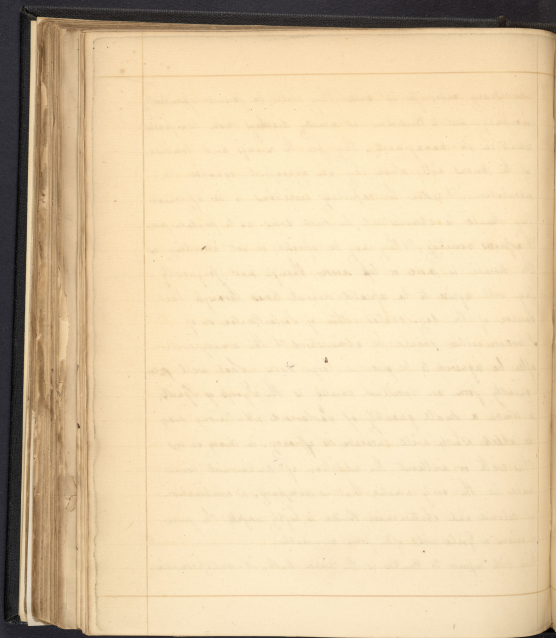
The disease being of a highly inflammatory character as might be expected, Venesection is the principal remedy & it is

almost the only one on which dependence can be placed. by
some practitioners the antispasmodics such as Opium, aconite &c.
have been relied on for the cure of this truly formidable
disease, but the general voice of practitioners appears to be against
this practice, & it is now pretty generally admitted that duple-
tory remedies only will succeed. In violent cases where the
attack is severe, the skin extremely hot & dry, the eyes rolling
in agony, the Pulse strong, or rapid & intermitting, & the
respiration is performed laboriously, no time is to be lost,
& here bloodletting cannot be dispensed with, the
patient is not to be treated in a timid manner, but
the most energetic practice is demanded. As before remarked
it is generally of a highly inflammatory character. Though
it may sometimes be entirely of Spasmodic nature
yet I am not aware that it will occasion any
difference in practice. no disease is more formidable
in its nature or if allowed to proceed more certainly
saps the foundation of life. a quantity of blood
proportioned to the age & constitution of the child & the
severity of the attack is to be immediately withdrawn.

As to the propriety of bleeding in this disease there can not be the shadow of a doubt. its beneficial effects have been almost universally acceded to; & I believe there are few practitioners in this country who do not consider it as the principal remedy. the inflammatory nature of the disease as demonstrated by dissections; & the prompt beneficial effects which result from the practical applications of venesections point it out as the primary mode to be relied on. the blood may be taken from the jugular vein or the arm & good effects more surely result from its sudden abstraction as in other inflammatory diseases than when it is drawn off more slowly. after bleeding by the arm Leeches will be found to be useful auxiliaries. they may be applied on each side of the throat. they will seldom fail to do good. though they are more particularly adapted to that stage of the disease when venesection pursued any further is not demanded or would be dangerous from the debility of the patients.

Next in point of utility are Emetics. The administration of Emetics forms a prominent feature in this disease and in

very many cases for its cure they will be found essentially
necessary. next to Bleedings no remedy displays more beneficial
results in its management. they free the Lungs and Trachea
of the mucus with which they are oppressed, equalise the
circulation, & restore the capillary excretions. to be effectual
they should be administered in such doses as to produce free
& copious sweating, & they may be repeated or not according as
the disease is more or less severe. though most frequently
they will require to be repeated several times through the
course of the day. emetics either of Tartar Emetic or of
Ipecacuanha should be administered & the remedy will
often be required to be given in large doses. what will pre-
ferably form an excellent emetic is the Syrup of Squills,
to which a small quantity of Tartaric Acid may
be added which will increase its efficacy. in many cases
this with or without the addition of antimonial wine
will be the only emetic that is necessary. a combination
of Calomel and Antimonial Powder is highly useful. the juice
of squills or Garlic will often prove serviceable.
Very little inferior to Emetics is the warm Bath. its antispasmodic



powers are universally acknowledged. dead to the impressions
of the most powerful stimuli the stomach will sometimes
remain unacting unacted upon but from the united
effects of a copious bleeding & the warm bath it recovers
its susceptibility & nature which had almost left her throne
assumes her wonted sway. it is in infancy that this remedy
offers to produce its most beneficial results & to this period
of life it is more peculiarly adapted. the times which
the child should remain in the bath is to be decided
by the judgement of the practitioner. 10 or 15 minutes will
generally be sufficiently long for its application. very
frequently few minutes will have elapsed before the
child begins to express its delight at the sudden removal of
oppression & pain which it has experienced: and the little patient
which but a few minutes before has its head thrown
back to prevent suffocation; its neck extended, the chest
heaving violently, & its arms tossing in various directions will
now breathe with almost natural regularity. the
pulse will become soft & the countenance returns
a cheerful expression & if continued longer in the

both a still further relaxation takes place with the lips
-ture, languor &c. marked by the pallid colour of the
countenance & the smallness of the Pulse. frequently
when the most powerful emetics have been given no
effect will be produced until the child has been
put into the warm bath.

As concurring in the antiphlogistic treatment
which this disease in an eminent degree demands
are Purgatives. They are exhibited in every stage of the
complaint either to produce active purging, or only for
their laxative effect. It is only in the first or acute stage
that they are exhibited so as to produce copious evacua-
-tions - given freely in the advanced stage they will
increase the debility which already attends upon the disease.
the purgative most generally used & which appears best
suited to the complaint is Calomel; this remedy appears
to be peculiarly adapted to the complaints of children both
on account of the smallness of its bulk; it being inodor-
-ous, and almost without any taste, it has sometimes
been given in exceedingly large doses in this disease, &

by some practitioners is almost exclusively relied on for
its cure, by them it is supposed to possess a peculiar
power over the secretory vessels of the Larynx, when it
behaves as it most frequently does, its good effect are
more conspicuous. — as a purgative the Gum-Resin
will answer very well. Anna, Maana, & Lala com-
bined may be given as a laxative.

Not to be dispensed with are the vesicating appli-
cations in the management of this disease, when
vascular action is high they are generally inadmissible
they are of great benefit applied in any stage of
the disease: but it is after the force of the cir-
-culation has been reduced that they show their best
effects & afford the greatest relief before this has
been done or the fever in a considerable degree
reduced their application is not followed by such
decided good effects. The Blister should extend
from ear to ear.

Expectorants they are highly useful in removing
the cough & looseness which attend upon the disease.

they should be given in small doses frequently repeated.
The *Polygala Senega*, has been used, it should not be
given while there is high arterial action. it is princi-
pally in the second stage that it is recommended.
It is best given in decoction.

From what has been said it may be perceived that
our principal dependence is to be placed on Blood-
letting. I on the whole, that there may be more harm
done by too sparing an use than by too free an
exhibition of the remedy. Children seized with this dis-
-ease will bear more rapid depletion than when labour-
-ing under any other.

After a recovery the child is to be carefully guarded
from the cause producing the disease; & if any cough
or hoarseness remain they will yield generally
to the use of the Squill mixture. onion juice
is a domestic remedy which is frequently given with
advantage. here also the *Polygala Senega* will
be found of great benefit. S.

